

First and foremost, FPL takes its responsibility to protect the environment very seriously, including the protection of sea turtles and other wildlife that are present near the St. Lucie plant. For more than 30 years, we've dedicated countless hours and resources to monitoring and protecting these incredible creatures at and around St. Lucie, and our track record on these matters speaks for itself.

It should also be pointed out that no legal action has been filed in this situation. The groups involved have issued a press release and sent FPL a certified letter, nothing more.

The letter states that, "The Fisheries Service, NRC, and FPL can forestall litigation over this matter by timely reinitiating and completing consultation regarding the effects of the SNLPP facility on smalltooth sawfish, Kemp's ridley sea turtles, and green sea turtles." Importantly, this consultation is already underway.

It should be pointed out that the Turtle Island Restoration Network is a California-based group that has no direct knowledge of the St. Lucie Nuclear Power plant or our decades-long commitment to protecting wildlife. In fact, their knowledge of FPL is so limited that they spelled the name of our CEO incorrectly in their notice. The other party involved, Beyond Nuclear, is an anti-nuclear activist group with a long history of twisting facts and using inflammatory language.

Take limits are established by the NMFS to help the agency better understand population trends of protected turtles and fish found in the intake canals. There have been times that take limits have been exceeded due to more capture and releases of healthy animals, like the Kemp's ridley sea turtle and the smalltooth sawfish. This simply means that our biologists encountered more of them than expected in the intake canal over a period of time and reported that data to the NMFS.

FPL worked with the regulatory agencies to explore the use of an excluder device. To be clear, the excluder device was never intended to keep all turtles from entering the intake canal. The excluder device was meant to keep larger adult turtles, including female, egg-bearing turtles out of the intake canal. We designed and tested an excluder device in a tank specifically created for this purpose, but testing found that it had the potential to harm some turtles. Because of the increased risk that the excluder device presented, we are proposing to continue the operation of PSL without installing an excluder device. We are consulting with both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service on possible next steps.

Peter Robbins

Director of Nuclear Communications
Marketing & Communication